

Conservation Commission Minutes
Tuesday, September 10, 2013
Town Hall Meeting Room, Old Town Rd.
5:30pm

Present: Members: Vice Chair Fred Leeder, John Hopf, Donald Littlefield, Les Slate, and David Roosa. Absent: Chair Ned Phillips, Jr. and Marea Mott. Also present was Terri Chmiel, Administrative Assistant for the recording of the minutes.

Call to Order

Vice Chair Mr. Leeder called the meeting to order at 5:27p.m.

Correspondence

Receipt of a letter dated August 27, 2013 from Don Thimble re: Proposed changes to the Zoning and Wastewater Management Ordinances.

Don Thimble, Wastewater Management Inspector presented. Mr. Thimble informed the Commission the Town Council will hold a public hearing scheduled for September 18, 2013 at 7:00p.m. to consider changes to the Zoning and Wastewater Management Ordinances. He explained the Zoning and Wastewater Management Ordinance prohibited the use of galley drain fields in 2001/2002; currently there are over 300 of these systems island wide. The proposed changes will require the property owner to have a soil evaluation to determine the ground water level. If the system has failed; the property owner has until 2016 to replace the system.

Mr. Leeder made a motion seconded by Mr. Littlefield to send a representative from the Commission to speak at the Town Council Public Hearing.

5 Ayes (Leeder, Hopf, Slate, Littlefield and Roosa)

0 Nays

2 Absent (Phillips and Mott)

Mr. Hopf stated that he plans to attend the meeting.

Receipt of a letter dated August 6, 2013 from The University of Rhode Island to Kim Gaffett re: Sea Level Rise affecting Coastal Wetlands – Municipal Worksession, September 12, 2013.

Mr. Leeder informed the Commission he will be attending the worksession the state is putting on reviewing maps of Block Island showing sea level rise scenarios and how the impact could affect the Town. The meeting is scheduled in the large meeting room in Town Hall on September 12, 2012 from 12-2pm.

Discussion on unleashing Asian weevils to attack mile-a-minute vine.

Letter of endorsement to URI Lisa Tewksbury for release on Block Island.

Mr. Littlefield made a motion seconded by Mr. Slate to table this item to the next schedule meeting.

5 Ayes (Leeder, Hopf, Slate, Littlefield and Roosa) 0 Nays
2 Absent (Phillips and Mott)

Schedule a work date for Dune Restoration.

Mr. Hopf stated twenty (20) rolls of snow fencing are left to install. Mr. Hopf and Mr. Roosa will determine where to install the remaining fencing. The Commission will meet to install fencing at the Town Beach on Tuesday, September 17, 2013.

Discussion/act on the proposed deer herd reduction and send advisory to Town Council.

Mr. Hopf made a motion seconded by Mr. Slate to table this item to the next schedule meeting.

5 Ayes (Leeder, Hopf, Slate, Littlefield and Roosa) 0 Nays
2 Absent (Phillips and Mott)

Update Rhode Map RI.

Mr. Leeder explained the state is putting together a series of overlay maps including: parking, historic, wetlands, vegetation and other values. A meeting is scheduled on October 3, 2013 at the East Greenwich Police Department, Community Room for the public to attend. He will keep the Commission updated with information from this meeting as this will be a great resource for the Commission

Update Native Bee Project.

Mr. Leeder submitted articles to the Commission regarding native bee projects. Mr. Leeder explained he was providing this information for awareness. No action was needed or taken.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Leeder made a motion seconded by Mr. Hopf to approve the minutes of May 14, 2013.

5 Ayes (Leeder, Hopf, Slate, Littlefield and Roosa) 0 Nays
2 Absent (Phillips and Mott)

Mr. Leeder made a motion seconded by Mr. Hopf to approve the minutes of June 11, 2013.

5 Ayes (Leeder, Hopf, Slate, Littlefield and Roosa) 0 Nays
2 Absent (Phillips and Mott)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55p.m. in a motion by Mr. Littlefield and seconded by Mr. Slate.

5 Ayes (Leeder, Hopf, Slate, Littlefield and Roosa)

0 Nays

2 Absent (Phillips and Mott)

Respectfully submitted

Terri L. Chmiel

Minutes approved: October 8, 2013